Non-availability of NCERT books in Delhi

417. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of students in different classes in Delhi are not getting in adequate number, the books published by the National Council of Educational Research and Training;

(b) whether Government are aware that there is a big shortage of NCERT books in the capital;

(c) whether Government's attention has been drawn into the statement of NCERT authorities that they are responsible to supply their books to the Kendriya Vidyalaya schools only;

(d) whether Government are aware that most of the other schools in Delhi are following NCERT books; and

(e) if so, Government's reaction to the NCERT view and steps being taken to make available the books to the students?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHIMAN BHAI MEHTA): (a) and (b) As part of the effort to re-orient the content and process of Education at the school stage, the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has, since 1986, been involved in a massive revision of text books based upon the national curricular framework and the revised syllabi developed by them. This revision has entailed the printing of a very large number of new text books. There has been a delay in making some of the text books available for the academic session 1990-91 in the Union Territory of Delhi. According to NCERT, all the text books will be available by the middle of June, 1990.

(c) No such statement has been made by the National Council of Educational Research and Training.

(d) and (c) The Government is aware that NCERT books are used by most of the schools in Delhi. Adequate quantities of text books published by the NCERT are provided to the wholesale agents for distribution to the schools. Thirteen wholesale agents have been appointed for distribution of NCERT text books in the Union Territory of Delhi. The NCERT has also been supplying text books directly to schools on receipt of orders from them. A Sales Counter on NCERT campus is run for the convenience of students/parents.

Thrusts of the Eighth Five Year Plan

418. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1742 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 27th March, 1990 and state:

(a) whether agriculture including horticulture would be one of the thrust areas of the Eighth Five Year if so, what specific action plan, is envisaged during the 1st year of the Eighth Five Year Plan to implement it;

(b) whether it is Government's policy to achieve a balanced growth of industry, agriculture, agro-based industries, to provide much greater acceleration to growth; and

(c) if so, what are the basic departures from the policies pursued so far, which have hindered growth?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN): (a) A greater emphasis on the development of the rural sector will be given in the Eighth Five Year Plan. The Plan for development of agriculture and horticulture in 1990-91 includes, among others, the special rice production programme, oilseeds production programme, technology mission on oilseeds, national pulses development programme, national watershed development programme and assistance to small and